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HOUSE RESOLUTION 4629

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Santos, Linville, Talcott, Haigh, Fisher, H. Sommers, Edmonds, Kagi, Parlette, Regala, Ballasiotes, Keiser, Ruderman, Anderson, Hankins, D. Schmidt, Barlean, Thomas, Conway and Pflug

Read first time 02/17/1999. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 WHEREAS, Monday, February 15, 1999, marks the one hundred seventy-  
2 ninth anniversary of the birth of Susan Brownell Anthony, reformer and  
3 leader of women's suffrage; and

4 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony defied male electioneers and faced  
5 indictment for illegally voting in 1872; and

6 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony spoke on suffrage legislation before  
7 members of the Washington State Territorial Legislature in Olympia,  
8 Washington, on October 19, 1871, making her the first woman in the  
9 history of the United States to be given the privilege of addressing an  
10 assembled legislature; and

11 WHEREAS, Following her presentation to the Washington Territorial  
12 Legislature, Susan B. Anthony was the guest of Daniel Bigelow, a state  
13 lawmaker who was one of the first to support women's suffrage in the  
14 Northwest, at what is now Olympia's historic Bigelow Home; and

15 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony helped draft the constitution for the  
16 Washington Women's Suffrage Association; and

17 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony was director of the Female Department of  
18 the Canajoharie Academy in New York until she abandoned her career in  
19 education to devote her life to social reform, first organizing the  
20 Women's State Temperance Society of New York; and

1 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton,  
2 founded in 1863 the Woman's Loyal National League to petition Congress  
3 to advocate full civil and political rights for women and blacks when  
4 the Civil War ended; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1866, Susan B. Anthony and other reformers formed the  
6 Equal Rights Association to further their campaign for women's  
7 suffrage; and

8 WHEREAS, The reformers took their suffrage campaign in 1867 to the  
9 New York State Constitutional Convention, where the state legislature  
10 refused to consider the issue, but instead gave considerable support to  
11 legislation legalizing prostitution; and

12 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony and her suffragettes fought back with  
13 lobbying efforts that killed the prostitution bill in committee, and  
14 furthermore, eventually secured the first laws in New York state  
15 guaranteeing women's rights over their children and control over  
16 property and wages; and

17 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony, during the presidential campaign in  
18 1872, urged women to claim their rights under the Fourteenth and  
19 Fifteenth amendments by registering and voting in every state in the  
20 union; and

21 WHEREAS, In a colorful display of her remarkable courage, Susan B.  
22 Anthony and her three sisters boldly entered a stronghold of men in a  
23 Rochester, New York, barbershop in 1872 and insisted that they be  
24 registered to vote under provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment; and

25 WHEREAS, On November 5th, Susan B. Anthony entered her polling  
26 place and voted the Republican ticket after which she was charged and  
27 indicted for voting illegally; and

28 WHEREAS, In another display of determination, Susan B. Anthony,  
29 refusing to pay her streetcar fare as a deputy marshall was carting her  
30 off to jail, announced loudly enough for all passengers to hear, "I'm  
31 traveling at the expense of this government. This gentleman is taking  
32 me to jail. Ask him for my fare!";

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of  
34 Representatives honor Susan B. Anthony and remember her for and emulate  
35 her in her dedication to social reform that led to the passage of the  
36 Women's Suffrage Amendment (Nineteenth Amendment) to the United States  
37 Constitution in 1920; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Susan B. Anthony be remembered for her  
39 courage and determination to work for equal rights for all citizens of

1 America as reflected in Anthony's quote, "It was we, the people, not  
2 we, the white male citizens, nor yet we, the male citizens, but we the  
3 whole people, who formed this Union. And we formed it not to give the  
4 blessings of liberty, but to secure them, not to the half of ourselves  
5 and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people--women as well  
6 as men."

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